

From: Paul Ludecke
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:18am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I take issue with the proposed settlement issue of Microsoft donating software to the public school system.

Microsoft has been found guilty of being a monopoly, and has been found guilty of harm thru monopolistic actions. Significant and measureable harm. Harm to an essential engine of American industry.

Offering Microsoft a settlement by allowing them to essentially 'print money' (thru the donation of their software products to parties that wouldn't otherwise purchase the products anyway) at cents on the dollar is absurd, and cynical. This smarmy collusion between government and corporate interests offers up a mighty stink that everyone can recognize, from the common Joe to the corporate executive.

If the government really wanted to cook up a deal with some teeth involving Microsoft products, I would suggest this:

A government-wide free site license (in perpetuity, or for a significant number of years) of Microsoft products.

Microsoft would see significant impact on their bottom line, and the American taxpayer would see significant relief thru a drop in Government spending on software.

-Paul Ludecke